

or Iraqi efforts to get us back into the same swamp they took the United Nations into."

Access to Saddam eight palaces is crucial because they are large sprawling complexes that cover a combined total of 12 square miles. The sites contain sumptuous living quarters with vistas of man-made lakes and waterfalls. Authorities also suspect they contain bunkers, quite possibly military control centers and perhaps laboratories for experimenting or manufacturing nuclear devices and other weapons of mass destruction.

Before weapons inspectors were pulled out of Iraq, they were permitted to visit the palaces only with advance warning and in the presence of a diplomat. These rules often were stretched so that Iraqis had days to move, conceal or destroy evidence.

In the last two years during which inspectors were active in Iraq, inspectors were barred entry to more than 60 sites. More than 40 of those sites were Saddam's presidential compounds.

Despite the constant delays and harassment, inspectors were successful in finding evidence of four nuclear weapons projects and manufacture of high toxic nerve gas VX.

Their success should have given the United Nations ample reasons to take a strict line with Saddam.

Ultimately his foot-dragging and posturing paid off. He was able to peel away support on the U.N. Security Council for a tough response on inspections. The temporary suspension of weapons inspections stretched into years.

It had not been for the challenge President George W. Bush presented the United Nations earlier this month to force Saddam to live up to its own resolutions, resumption of weapons inspections still would be a forgotten issue.

It's discouraging that United Nations officials seem to have so quickly forgotten their previous misstep with the crafty dictator.

The Bush administration is amply justified in taking a hard line against concessions that would permit Saddam to renew his old tactics. The United Nations has been there and done that. This time is member nations need to insist on inspections that truly are unfettered.

# RECOGNIZING APPLAUDING AND SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE ARMY AVIATION HERITAGE FOUNDATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 7, 2002*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, based in Hampton, Georgia, the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation is devoted to promoting the history of military aviation. The foundation is an all volunteer non profit organization composed of veterans and civilian supporters acting to connect the American soldier to the American public through the story of Army Aviation. They are not a part of the U.S. Army and receive no governmental funding assistance. Their funding comes entirely from donations made by private individuals and organizations. These volunteers are committed to preserving the aircraft used by our military in securing the freedom we so enjoy as a nation.

The Army Aviation Heritage Foundation volunteers devote a significant amount of their personal time, resources, and money to bring

the story of our country's military and the legacy of our veterans to the American people through their "living history" programs, displaying and flying World War II, Korean, and Vietnam-era planes and helicopters. These "living history" programs presented at major public venues and air shows are designed to honor our country's military and its' veterans while inspiring the public and giving them a glimpse of military life, service, and devotion to the next generation.

Since 1997, the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation has devoted more than 150,000 volunteer hours and \$5.3 million in donated funds, aircraft, and equipment in 35 air shows and public presentations to more than 5.5 million people.

The foundation is acting to provide America's veterans a voice with which to tell their story and the tools with which to share their legacy of service and devotion with the American public.

The Army Aviation Heritage Foundation has four primary purposes:

(1) Educate the American public to their military heritage through the story of U.S. Army Aviation's soldiers and machines.

(2) Connect the American soldier to the American public as an active, accepted, and admired member of the American family.

(3) Inspire patriotism and motivate Americans everywhere toward service to their community and country by involving them in our nation's larger military legacy.

(4) Preserve authentic examples of Army aircraft and utilize them in educational "living history" demonstrations and presentations so that the symbols of America's military legacy may always remain in our skies for future generations.

House concurrent Resolution 465 recognizes and applauds the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation for their efforts to educate, connect, inspire, and preserve our proud military heritage for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation, and their hundreds of volunteers and supporters, and urge passage of House Concurrent Resolution 465.

# SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS' SMALL BUSINESS FEDERAL PROCUREMENT PREFERENCE ACT OF 2002

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 9, 2002*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 5583, "Service-Disabled Veterans' Small Business Federal Procurement Preference Act of 2002." This bill would provide service-disabled veterans and "other handicapped" individuals who own small business firms a time-delimited preference in the award of Federal contracts.

This legislation is clearly needed. While the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 established a 3 percent goal for the award of Federal contracts to service-disabled veteran-owned small business firms under the Small Business Act, no practical means exists for Federal agencies to achieve this goal under existing statutory

authorities. Not surprisingly, Federal agencies have failed to achieve the 3 percent goal.

Compared to their non-veteran peers, veterans have postponed the opportunity to begin a small business while serving the nation in uniform. During their military service veterans have forgone establishing essential business credit and contacts which are pivotal to successfully starting a business. Due to their military service, our veterans are technically, an economically disadvantaged group compared to their non-veteran peers. Veterans have willingly sacrificed their lifetime earning potential to serve our nation in uniform. This is particularly so for service-disabled veterans who have sacrificed their mobility, health and well-being serving this country.

Service-disabled veterans are additionally economically disadvantaged given the reluctance of many lenders to extend lines of business credit to handicapped individuals. Regardless of their abilities, when financial institutions perceive a service-disabled veteran to be a greater risk, service-disabled veterans are further disadvantaged. Service-disabled veterans and handicapped individuals, in general, are often perceived by society to be less capable. Like others, service-disabled veterans and handicapped individuals simply need the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and abilities. This legislation provides that opportunity which for many is not otherwise available.

Service-disabled veterans and other handicapped individuals are discriminated against both in financial markets, relative to their access to capital, and in the marketplace, relative to opportunities to equally compete. It is therefore in this sense, and in no other, that service-disabled veterans and other handicapped individuals are economically and socially disadvantaged.

To provide service-disabled veterans real opportunity, this legislation provides a time-delimited preference in the award of Federal contracts. The existing statutory vehicle which provides a time-delimited preference is the 8(a) program under the Small Business Act. 8(a) was specifically established to assist economically and socially disadvantaged small business firms compete in the Federal marketplace. This bill adds both service-disabled veterans and other handicapped individuals to the list of identified individuals presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged under the Small Business Act 8(a) Program.

In order to not lessen the opportunities for individuals already presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged under the Small Business Act 8(a) Program, this legislation retains the existing 5 percent goal for these groups. It also provides a separate 3 percent goal for service-disabled veteran owned small business firms and a separate 2 percent goal for other handicapped individuals. These changes increase the aggregate goal for the award of Federal contracts to socially and economically disadvantaged small business firms to 10 percent.

Paralleling the newly specified goals for small business concerns owned and controlled by both veterans and other handicapped individuals, the Government-wide goal for participation by small business concerns is increased. The total value of all prime contracts and subcontracts awarded to small business concerns each fiscal year is increased from 23 percent to 28 percent.